

REMARKSA. Status of the Claims

Prior to the submission of this paper, claims 1-26 were pending. Claims 1-20 were allowed by the Examiner as set forth in the June 24, 2004 Office Action. Claims 21-26, however, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,525,102 to Chen et al. ("Chen") in view of an article by Nabuchi et al ("Nabuchi") (1998 Analytica Chimica Acta 365:301-307).

Rather than arguing over the merits of the rejection of claims 21-26, Applicant respectfully requests the cancellation of these claims without prejudice to their being filed and pursue in a subsequent continuation application.

Accordingly, because the only remaining claims in this case are claims 1-20, which have been allowed, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of this application.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

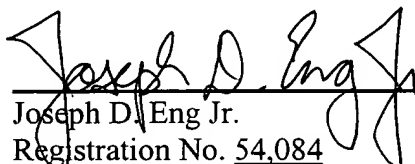
AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 0263-4051. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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